(b) if so, the details thereof and fey when the project is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a), and (b) Yes, Sir. A Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) has been signed on 4.2.1997 between National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB) for the Simhadri Thermal Power Project (2x500 MW) to be set up in Andhra Pradesh. The final investment approval for this project has not yet been accorded by the Government of India. The first unit of project is expected to be commissioned in 56 months after the date of such approval and the second unit nine months thereafter, the PPA, inter alia, contains details about tariff fixation, arrangements for billing and payments and the security package, dispute resolving mechanism etc.

Additional Power Capacity during the Eighth Five Year Plan

*378. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the target for creation of additional power capacity during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) what has been the actual erection of additional capacity;

(c) what are the reasons for the shortfall, if any; and

(d) how this position would be corrected during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The target fixed was 30537.7 MW.

(b) The likely capacity addition during the Eighth Plan period is 17668 MW.

(c) The main reasons for shortfall have been paucity of resources rehabilitation & resettlements issues, law and order etc.

(d) Achievement of target for capacity addition in the Ninth Plan is proposed to be ensured through several measures including improved monitoring systems, priority .to ongoing sanctioned schemes, streamlining and simplifying clearance procedures and reforms and restructuring of State Electricity Boards.

LPG agencies in Kumaun region of Uttar Pradesh

*379. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG connections with each agency in Ramnagar, Almora, Ranikhet, Haldwani and Nainital in Uttar Pradesh, alongwith the number of persons on the waiting list, as on the 31st January, 1997;

(b) by when the wait-listed persons in those towns are likely to be provided LPG connections; and

(c) what are the other places in hill districts of Kumaun Region in Uttar Pradesh where LPG , facilities are available, and by when the remaining areas are likely to be provided with such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of number of LPG customers and number of persons on waiting list with each agency of Public Sector Oil Companies' distributorships as

Name of distributorships	Market	Customers	Waiting list
1. Parvat Gas Service	Nainital	22970	448
2. Almora Gas Service	Almora	14471	2460
3. Ranikhet Gas Service	Ranikhet	11529	2995
4. Haldwani Gas Service	Haldwani	15432	4380
5. Ramnagar Gas Service	Ramnagar	6546	4688
6. Choudhary Gas	Haldwani	11364	7407

(b) Release of new connections against waiting list depends inter-alia upon product availability, slack available with existing distributors, minimum/ sustainable allocation to newly commissioned distributorships/unviable distributors etc.

As per policy, connections at places situated above 2000 ft. level, are to be released across the counter in all the specified hilly areas. These include Nainital, Almora and Ranikhet. Haldwani and Ramnagar are situated below 2000 ft. level.

(c) Other places in hill districts of Kumaun Region in Uttar Pradesh where LPG facilities are available are:—

1. Bajpur
2. Jaspur
3. Kashipur
4. Khatima
5. Kichha
6. Pantnagar
7. Rudrapur
8. Tannkpur
9. Baleshwar
10. Dharchula
11. Pithoragarh
12. Didihat
13. Lohaghat

IOC Ltd. are also marketing LPG at 109 more places which are very small. LPG is being marketed at these places through the extension points of main distributorships.

All the major places have been covered for LPG marketing. Opening of LPG distributorship extension points based on request from Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. in the hilly areas of Kumaon Region has been permitted from time to time keeping in view the product availability.

Criticism of oil exploration work by planning commission

*380 SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of crude oil likely to be imported during the next five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has critised the performance of oil exploration, recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS'(SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The quantity of crude oil import would depend on the over all demand & indigenous production of crude oil.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, However, in the "Background Note on the Ninth Five Year Plan 1997—2002 and Annual Plan 1997-98 for Petroleum Sector" the Planning Commission has observed that the hydrocarbon reserve accretion during the Eighth Plan period has been far below the target and that in the exploration Strategy, thrust needs to be given for exploration in deep waters and in other frontier areas.